

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 07528 231506Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 035776

R 222125Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9528

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 7528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR VE CO

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN CABINET TO CONSIDER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S  
PROPOSAL

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN REACTION TO  
COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL FOR A COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELA  
CONDOMINIUM OVER THAT PORTION OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA CLAIMED BY  
BOTH COUNTRIES HAS BEEN GUARDED. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
ESCOVAR TOLD THE PRESS JULY 21 THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE PRO-  
POSAL UNTIL HE HAS SEEN THE COMPLETE TEXT OF LOPEZ'S SPEECH.  
ESCOVAR NOTED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE SEARCHING FOR A SATISFACTORY  
SOLUTION TO THE BORDER DISPUTE, BUT ADDED THAT THE GOV WILL NOT CON-  
CLUDE AN AGREEMENT IN SECRET. MINISTER OF MINES  
HERNANDEZ INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ AND THE CABINET WILL  
STUDY THE LOPEZ PROPOSAL DURING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING  
JULY 22.

2. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL REPORTED JULY 22 THAT FOREIGN  
MINISTRY OFFICIALS INDICATED UNOFFICIALLY THAT THE CONDOMINIUM PRO-  
POSAL IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO VENEZUELA. THEY ADDED THAT THIS IS THE  
FIRST TIME JOINT OWNERSHIP HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY EITHER COUNTRY DURING  
THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE DISPUTED AREA. THE VERNACULA PRESS HAS  
BEEN SILENT SO FAR AS TO GOV REACTION.

3. REACTION FROM VENEZUELAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 07528 231506Z

NEGATIVE. ACCION DEMOCRATICA SENATOR JOSE MANZO SAID VENEZUELA

SHOULD NOT DIVIDE UP THE GULF OF VENEZUELA WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY. COPEI SENATOR AND EX-PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS J.A. PEREZ DIAZ CHARACTERIZED THE COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL AS "WORRISOME" AND "ANNOYING." INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST DEPUTY JOSE VICENTE RANGEL SAID VENEZUELA COULD NOT ACCEPT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL. HE URGED THE GOVT TO REPLY TO LOPEZ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE "ANY SILENCE OR OMISSION COULD BE INTERPRETED WRONGLY". REPUBLICAN DEMOCRATIC UNION DEPUTY RAMON SIFONTES SAID THE PROPOSAL IS "UNACCEPTABLE" AND SHOULD BE REJECTED.

4. REACTION FROM THE VENEZUELAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS MUTED. A DIRECTOR OF FEDECAMARAS SAID LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL HAS SURPRISED BUSINESS LEADERS. REINALDO CERVINI, PRESIDENT OF THE PRO-VENEZUELA GROUP, SAID VENEZUELA COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY FORMULA WHICH DIMINISHES VENEZUELAN SOVERIEGNTY OVER THE GULF. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOVE MAY NOT REPLY OFFICIALLY TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S PROPOSAL PRIOR TO THIS WEEKEND'S MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS PEREZ AND LOPEZ IN SANTA MARTA, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT VENEZUELA WILL AGREE TO A CONDOMINIUM OVER THE DISPUTED PORTION OF THE GULF OF VENEZUELA SEEMS REMOTE. THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONCLUDE ANY AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA OVER THE GULF WHICH COULD BE CRITICIZED BY THE OPPOSITION OR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY, AS A "SELL-OUT." SHLAUDEMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, PROPOSALS (BID), WATER BOUNDARIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CARACA07528  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750254-0758  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750730/aaaabben.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VENEZUELAN CABINET TO CONSIDER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, VE, CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006